

A GREAT MONUMENT.

The Hieroglyphic Stairway Found at Copan, Honduras.

Finest Specimen of Aboriginal American Architecture in Existence—Its Beauty Is a Puzzle to Archaeologists.

The remarkable hieroglyphic stairway at Copan, in Honduras, not far from the boundary of Guatemala, is in many ways the most important and interesting monument of aboriginal American architecture that has ever been brought to light by the excavations of the archaeologist. Ten years ago it was practically unknown, but since then it has been uncovered and studied as a whole by the various Copan expeditions of the Peabody museum of American archaeology and ethnology at Harvard, under the direction of George B. Gordon, whose elaborate report on the discovery and restoration of the stairway—just issued to subscribers by the museum authorities—affords much incidental information concerning a memorable prehistoric civilization that may prove to be older than even the Assyrian or the Egyptian—that of the ancient Maya people which once dwelt in the plains and valleys of Central America.

How many hundreds—or thousands—of years old the hieroglyphic stairway really is, even the archaeologist hardly ventures to guess. It is a principal feature of the ruined acropolis of what is known to be one of the most ancient cities on the American continent, the annals of which, however, were no more than a shadowy legend even when the Spaniards came to Mexico; and in spite of the fact that the steps of the stairway carry, graven in a series of picture characters or hieroglyphics, what is apparently some kind of a continuous chronological record, these "glyphs" are still, for the most part, quite undecipherable, and the record which they contain is as yet little more than an archaeological puzzle—though to solve it might



ABORIGINAL SCULPTURE. (Rare Work of Art Discovered at Copan, in Central America.)

well mean the opening up of a chapter of history as romantic as it is mysterious.

At one end of the main structure of Copan, as the acropolis of the city is called, a broad pyramid, which at one time was crowned by some public building—a temple or palace—rises to a height of about 85 feet. On the western slope of this pyramid is the hieroglyphic stairway, originally affording access from a square or plaza below to the temple above and a system of terraced courts beyond. At some time in the past, however, a landslide swept away the symmetry of two large faces of the pyramid and brought down the upper steps of the great staircase in an almost indistinguishable mass of debris which completely buried the lower stairs, so that when Mr. Gordon first visited Copan the whole plan of the stairway was entirely obliterated, and the pyramid itself was little more than an overgrown mound of earth and broken stones.

Four entire seasons were required to bring something like order out of this chaos. From 50 to 100 laborers were at one time constantly employed, and the fragments which were removed covered an acre of ground. Every important fragment was carefully molded, and the molds shipped to Cambridge in order that some day a restoration of the whole staircase may be made and set up in the Peabody museum. Only 15 of the 40 or 50 upper steps which went down in the landslide retained in any degree their identity or their relative positions, however.

Hedgehog Kills a Viper.

A resident at Versailles, M. Guignet, sends to Nature a vivid account of a duel he saw between a hedgehog and a viper. The two enemies knew very well at first sight who was who, and eyed each other as if they knew a moment's inattention would be fatal. The viper was the first to get tired of gazing and it began to glide away. Just then the hedgehog rushed for the viper's tail, and having nailed it fast with his teeth, it rolled itself up. The hedgehog was very careful, however, not to cut the tail off. The viper curled back, and delivered furious assaults on its aggressor, wrestling and rolling with the curled-up hedgehog all over the place. At length the snake, wounded in a hundred places, died. The hedgehog began its repast on the tail of its victim, and was careful not to eat the head.

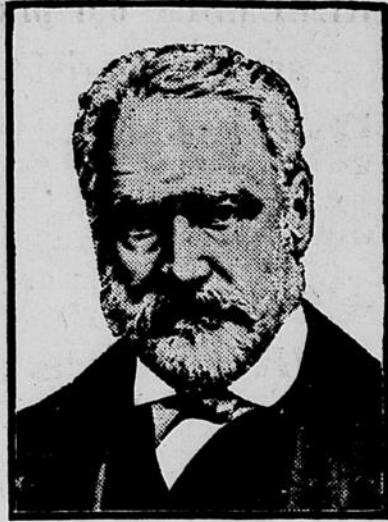
Attentive Bible Reader.

From early youth Ambrose S. Ottey, of Cecil county, Md., has been an attentive reader of the Bible. He has read it from beginning to end 117 times, and informs us that it contains 1,189 chapters, 31,198 verses, 773,607 words, and 3,566,480 letters.

HUGO AS A BENEFACTOR.

How the Famous French Author Once Helped a Poor Pressman Who Was in Love.

Catulle Mendes, writing in the *Courier des Etats Unis*, tells an interesting tale of how Hugo helped a poor pressman who was in love. The following is a condensation of the story: During Hugo's exile Mendes was editor of a struggling journal which, for reasons of economy, was printed in a small provincial city. These Mendes became acquainted with a poor pressman who was well educated, and intelligent and a very entertaining companion. Usually he was very cheerful and light-hearted, but on one occasion



VICTOR HUGO. (Famous French Author, Philanthropist and Patriot.)

was so morose that Mendes questioned him until he confessed the reason.

He was in love with his employer's daughter and she with him. The master printer had risen from the case himself, and his present fortune and social position did not warrant expectation of a rich son-in-law, so that the young printer had been confident and serene until, having decided that there was no use in waiting longer, he had recently asked for the young woman's hand.

Then he had a painful surprise. The girl's father was financially embarrassed, it appeared, and a penniless son-in-law was not to be thought of. The favored suitor must have six thousand francs, at least. So the poor fellow was in despair and talked about drowning himself. Mendes himself was pretty hard up in those days. He advised the disconsolate lover to appeal to Victor Hugo for assistance. The young printer naturally objected that Hugo had beggars on his hands and would not be likely to do anything for a total stranger. But Mendes insisted and the printer complied.

On Mendes next visit, two weeks later, the young man met him at the station and showed him 3,000 francs in bank notes which Hugo had sent him with these words:

"I am not rich just now. Please excuse me. Here are 3,000 francs."

The printer said that he would marry his Clementine next month. Although her father had demanded twice the sum he could not refuse when he learned of Victor Hugo's part in the affair.

So they were married. How long or how happily they lived together Mr. Mendes neglects to state.

THE OLYMPIAN GAMES.

President Roosevelt Will Attend the Opening of the International Meet in 1904.

President Roosevelt will attend the opening of the Olympian games in Chicago during September and October of 1904. He made the promise the other day to Messrs. Henry J. Furber, Jr., president, and Benjamin J. Rosenthal, chairman of the committee on finance of the games.

Mr. Roosevelt indicated a disposition to do all in his power to further the efforts of the Olympian association. He entered enthusiastically into the spirit of the proposed exhibitions and discussed them for an hour with the committee.

Particular attention was paid to the military exercises, which are to have a prominent part in the games.

Dresses Up for Elections.

"Uncle" David Huggins, of Abilene, Kan., has owned a silk hat for 37 years, which he wears only on election day, when he dresses up in a long Prince Albert coat and other good clothes and makes the business of voting quite a ceremony. "Uncle" David is 80 years old, and he has voted the republican ticket ever since there was a republican party. His annual appearance in the plug hat has grown to be quite an event in Abilene, and on account of it there are people in Abilene who regret the change to biennial elections.

SECRETS IN CIPHER.

How Diplomatic Transactions Are Guarded in England.

Dispatches Are Carried by King's Messengers Who Are Shadowed by Government Detectives While en Route.

It says much for the integrity of government officials, comments London *Lit-Bits*, that all knowledge of our recent important treaty with Japan was successfully withheld from foreign nations until the compact had been actually sealed, but the great care exercised in guarding a diplomatic secret renders a premature announcement very rare indeed.

No government secret when first born is ever committed to paper, except on the rare occasions when minutes of a cabinet meeting are taken and forwarded to the sovereign. As a rule, our ministers meet and transact business without anyone being the wiser, for no official of any kind is allowed to be present.

Once the government has decided upon an important piece of foreign policy it has to be transmitted to our representative abroad, and for the first time the secret is put in writing in the form of intelligible cipher, the key to which is already in the hands of our ambassador. The men who draw up these intricate cipher codes are reliable officials specially employed by the government, and they often obtain from £500 to £700 for a single code.

The dispatch having been prepared, it is given into the care of a king's messenger, who wears attached to his person a bag fitted with a secret lock. To this lock there are only two keys; one in the possession of the foreign office and the other retained by our ambassador, who must unlock the bag himself or instruct his secretary to do so upon the messenger's arrival.

The journey between this country and abroad is a risky one, because the



PRINCESS HENRY OF PLESS. (To Marry Her Husband and Leave Diplomatic Service.)

messenger is beset with spies, and, although he travels incognito and well armed, there is always the chance of his being set upon and robbed. To avoid this, when an important dispatch is being carried, he is shadowed by two detectives throughout the journey, so that they can instantly come to his assistance if necessary.

When traveling by rail he engages a special compartment, and if called upon to do so he will have to lose his life before sacrificing the dispatch. In return he receives a salary of £400 a year, in addition to one pound a day when traveling and all expenses found, but before being employed he has to be nominated by an official filling an important position under government who will hold himself responsible for his being a reliable messenger and not a foreign agent. Sometimes, to avoid danger, the courier carries with him the special sanction of international law, whereby every country through which he passes becomes responsible for his safety.

On arrival the messenger goes to the embassy and hands over the bag either to the ambassador personally or his secretary, who has had verbal orders from his chief to receive it, no written instructions being accepted as genuine, nor must the bag be given to anyone holding an inferior post to that of confidential secretary. In every embassy there is a strong room wherein dispatches are stored in an enormous safe, the key of which is held only by the ambassador, and no one but himself is permitted to enter the chamber. Every night two watchmen remain outside the door with loaded revolvers, having orders to shoot down any marauder.

Obviously great care has to be taken that no information shall leak out from the officials themselves, and with the exception of Britain and Italy no European nation will permit any member of an embassy to marry a woman of the country in which they are employed. Even the ambassadors themselves are bound by the same rule; and some years ago, when Germany's representative in London, Prince Henry of Pless, wished to marry Miss Cornwallis West, he had to surrender his position before being able to do so.

Prisoners Play Football. It didn't seem right to spoil a day's sport, so the jailer at Fort Scott, Kan., temporarily liberated a couple of prisoners to make up the full quota of a local football team. The team was short-handed, and was scheduled for a game. After the game the prisoners returned to the jail.

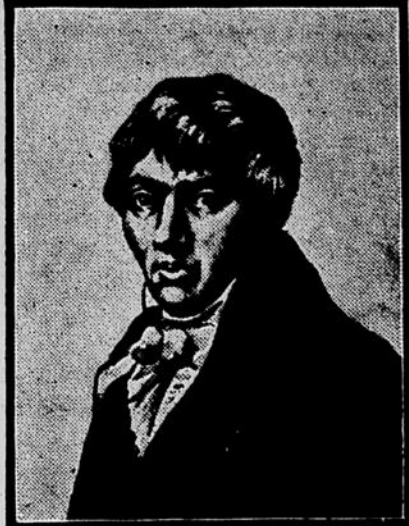
Victim of Hard Work. A lazy man in Holbrook, Neb., spent a day in cleaning up a filthy cellar. He became sick in consequence of his exertions, and a week's illness resulted. Now he says he'll let his wife clean up next time.

SAVED THEIR NAMES.

Inventors Who Have Been Made Immortal by Their Labors in a Variety of Fields.

While the word "macadamize" was rapidly establishing its position in the English language, no less an authority than Jeremy Bentham gave it a helping hand on its way by declaring that "the success of Mr. McAdam's system justified the perpetuation of his name in popular speech."

This is, perhaps, the most perfect example of all of a spontaneous popular impetus whereby an inventor, who had benefited mankind, was embalmed, so to say, in his own invention, and his



JOHN L. MACADAM. (His Name Will Always Be Associated with Road-Making.)

name, connected indissolubly with it, was handed down to future ages with a certainty that it would endure as long at least as the language continued to exist.

But, curiously enough, at almost the same time when the great roadmaker was achieving immortality, another inventor, with a no less obviously Scotch name, was treading the same path to linguistic fame.

The labors in the field of chemistry which enabled Macintosh to perfect and patent a new sort of clothing—and that in a time when traveling by stage coaches rendered it particularly welcome—were almost as prolonged as those which qualified his fellow-countryman in a long life to solve the problem of constructing a durable roadway for wheeled traffic.

A third notable specimen of the conversion of a name into a vernacular word may be taken from France, where Dr. Guillotin found himself effectually, though not perhaps very agreeably, immortalized in connection with the lethal implement which still bears his name. The popular belief that he perished by the machine which he had introduced appears to be erroneous.

HERBERT G. SQUIERS.

He Will Be the First Minister of the United States to the New Cuban Republic.

Herbert Goldsmith Squiers, who was selected by the president as the first United States minister to Cuba, though a Canadian by birth, has spent nearly all his life in the service of the United States. He was appointed a lieutenant in the army from Minnesota in 1877, but disliked his assignment to the infantry, because there was no Indian fighting in it, and exchanged into the cavalry. Here he was again disappointed. Instead of joining his regiment, he was sent to the cavalry school



HERBERT G. SQUIERS. (He Will Be the First United States Minister to Cuba.)

at Fort Monroe, Kan. While there he eloped with and married the daughter of W. G. Fargo, pioneer in the express business. On the death of his wife a few years later he resigned from the army, and shortly afterward entered the diplomatic service as third secretary of legation at London. He also served in Berlin and St. Petersburg, and was then sent to Peking, where his military knowledge and sound judgment proved of great value during the siege of the legations.

This Dog Chews Tobacco. "Old Peter Jenkins, of our town, has the only tobacco-chewing dog I ever heard of," says a Bristol (Pa.) man in the *Philadelphia Record*. "The dog is now over ten years old, and so far as anybody knows, he has been a slave to the habit ever since he was a puppy. Peter himself says he doesn't remember how the pup acquired the taste; maybe he was born with it. At any rate, Peter never takes a chew without offering one to the dog if he is around, and the dog never refuses. If Peter should happen to forget he would soon be forcibly reminded of his oversight. It is a curious thing to see the dog lying with his head in his paws, working his jaws over a juicy quid. He swallows it, too, and it never seems to make him sick."

NORTH DAKOTA NEWS.

After the Pharmacy.

The papers have been served on Brownlee & Ager of the Waldorf Pharmacy and Samuel Mathews, as proprietor of the Waldorf Hotel at Fargo in an action brought by the state's attorney to abate alleged nuisances. The action is a civil one and pending a final hearing in the case Judge Pollock of the district court has granted a temporary injunction restraining both the Waldorf Hotel and the Waldorf Pharmacy from dispensing liquor in any manner contrary to law. The action is based on the affidavit of one H. H. Morris, a retired lawyer and detective, who in an extended affidavit and complaint sets forth that the parties to the action have been guilty of gross infractions of the prohibitory law. He alleges that the Waldorf Pharmacy has dispensed liquor to divers parties—whose names are given—without their compliance with the regulations of the statute governing the rights of druggists to sell intoxicating liquors. He makes oath that he has himself purchased liquor in the place and gives the names of persons who have drunk with him.

Burned to Death.

The stable of Frederic Fransky, 20 miles east of Emerson, was burned. When the father got to the stable it was in flames. His eldest girl had first gotten out not much burned. A second daughter aged five was also out, but a boy two years and a half was in the stable behind a buggy screaming, "Papa, help, it is awful hot." The father rushed in, seized the child by a garment but it gave way and the father was forced to retreat. A second time he tried with the same result; the third time he got hold of the boy and brought him out. He rushed to some water with the boy, and turned to find the youngest girl in flames from her clothing which had caught in the stable and was fanned by the wind. Both the younger children died. The oldest girl was quite severely burned and was too frightened to help the others. The mother was away from home.

State Convention.

There was a full representation of the republican state central committee in Fargo, the occasion of the meeting to fix the date of holding the next republican state convention and the fixing of the apportionment to said convention. There was an effort on the part of a considerable number to carry out the resolution of the committee which was adopted last August, which provided for the basing of representation on the lowest vote on the state ticket, but it was decided otherwise and the basis of representation was made on the highest and lowest votes on the state ticket. The fight for the carrying out of the resolution as adopted last year was led by Bob Wallace. The apportionment, as finally decided upon, gives a total strength in the state convention of 744. This will give Cass county 68 delegates, Grand Forks will be next with 47.

Paul Crum.

The bill making Paul Crum a member of Company B of Fargo, and giving him an honorable discharge from the service, has passed both houses of congress and been sent to President Roosevelt for his signature. Paul Crum ran away from Fargo, and followed Company B of the North Dakota volunteers to the Philippines. He was too young to enlist, but for a long time attached himself to the company, and when he could get a gun, he used it. Later he served with the First Nebraskas. Officers of both regiments gave him letters, indorsing his bravery. Friends took up the matter and secured the passage of the bill to make the records show he was a member of the local company.

Golf Club.

An enthusiastic meeting of the golf club was held at Jamestown. C. J. Wilson was elected president; Mrs. F. Beals, vice-president, and S. A. Wilder, secretary and treasurer. The secretary's report showed enough money on hand to put the grounds in shape. A communication from the Fargo Golf Club asking for a date for a match game was referred to a governing committee. There are now thirty members of the club.

Degree Conferred.

Diplomas were presented at New York to thirty-four graduates of the General Theological seminary (Protestant Episcopal) by Bishop Walker of western New York. The honorary degree of doctor of divinity was conferred on the Right Rev. Cameron Mann, missionary bishop of North Dakota, and the Right Rev. Charles S. Olmstead, of Colorado.

News Notes.

A Cass county farmer reports the existence of many live grasshoppers in his neighborhood. Programs are out for the meeting of the state sportsmen's association at Fargo June 3 and 4. Bulletin No. 51 just issued by the Agricultural college, tells all about corn culture in the northwest. Corn has become one of the important crops of the valley, and has contributed not a little to the prosperity of the state. Any information concerning its growth is of value. Friends of George W. Freerks who lives at Fargo, have taken measures to correct an error by which he was reported to have been disbarred from practice. The proceedings, led to the use of his name in the place of Martin C. Freerks. George W. Freerks has not been disbarred.

MORE WORK FOR MITCHELL.

Settlement of Dispute of Bituminous Miners of Illinois Left in His Hands.

Hazleton, Pa., May 19.—President Mitchell's time Saturday morning was given up almost entirely to consideration of the local difficulty at the bituminous mines at Springfield, Ill. The conference Friday night with the Illinois operators headed by Herman Justi, of Chicago, president of the Illinois Cooperators' association and the delegation of mine workers from the same state, headed by W. R. Russell, of Danville, president of the Illinois State organization, lasted until after midnight.

The operators have a yearly contract with the miners and they desire to renew it. Messrs. Justi and Russell, acting for their respective sides could not agree on several points and it was decided to submit the matter to President Mitchell. Each side was heard and the settlement of the disputed points was left to W. W. Keefer, of Danville, an operator, and Mr. Mitchell. They are now trying to reach a settlement. Both sides say the matter will be straightened out. A strike had been ordered there, but the order was rescinded pending the present negotiations.

Thirty-five hundred men are involved. The regions hereabouts were very quiet Saturday and every one is patiently awaiting developments. President Mitchell was frequently interrupted during his conference with the soft coal men by calls to the telephone. Most of these consultations have been with district leaders in the field.

Washington, May 19.—President Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor, Saturday said that no propositions had been outlined for submission to either side of the anthracite coal mine strike, looking to adjustment of the troubles. He stated that as president of the federation, a member of the Civic Federation and as a citizen, he proposed to do everything possible to settle the differences, but that if an adjustment satisfactory to both sides could not be reached he proposed to stand by the miners in their fight for what they deemed their rights. He said there was "nothing in the air" as the result of Friday night's conference between himself, Senator Hanna and Secretary Easley, of the Civic Federation, and no line of action had been outlined as the result of that meeting.

TO QUIET WESTERN UNION.

Pennsylvania Notifies the Company That It Will Run Its Own Telegraph Line.

Philadelphia, May 19.—An official of the Pennsylvania Railroad company Saturday practically confirmed the statement that the company has notified the Western Union Telegraph company to remove its poles and wires from the lines controlled by it. The contract between the railroad company and the telegraph company expired in September last and, according to the Pennsylvania railroad official quoted, the latter has given the Western Union company six months from June 1 in which to remove its wires and poles. It is stated that this does not necessarily mean that the contract between the two companies will not be renewed. If it is renewed, however, it is probable that it will be on somewhat different terms from the previous contract.

THE MARKETS.

GRAIN, PROVISIONS, ETC.

Chicago, May 17.
WHEAT—Ruled quiet. July sold at 74 1/4 @ 75 1/4; September, 72 1/4 @ 73 1/4.
CORN—Very weak. July sold at 61 1/2 @ 62 1/4; September, 59 1/2 @ 60 1/4.
OATS—Show little change. July sold at 26 1/2 @ 27 1/4.
RYE—Dull and easy. July, 56 1/2 @ 57 1/4.
BUTTER—Market steady. Creamery, 13 @ 14 1/2 per pound; dairies, 17 @ 20.
POTATOES—Feeling easy. Rurala, 77 @ 82; Burbanks, 70 @ 75; new potatoes, Triumphs, \$2.75 @ 4.50 per bbl.; Florida Rose, \$3.50 @ 4.00.
EGGS—Holding steady to firm. At mark, cases returned, 12 @ 14 1/4; "firsts," new cases included, 15c.
LIVE POULTRY—Feeling easier. Turkeys, 10 @ 12c; chickens, 12c; ducks, 8 1/2 @ 10c. New York, May 17.
WHEAT—Steady but quiet. May, 90 1/4; July, 89 1/2 @ 90 1/2; 12-16c; September, 78 1/2 @ 79 1/2; December, 79 1/2 @ 79 3/4.
RYE—Steady. State, 62 @ 2c. c. f. New York car lots; No. 2, western, 65 c. f. o. b. afloat.
CORN—Corn developed moderate weakness again because of prospective larger receipts. May, 67 @ 67 1/2; September, 73 1/2 @ 74 1/2; December, 79 1/2 @ 79 3/4.
OATS—Dull, but steadied by western manipulation. Track white, 50 1/2 @ 55c.
BUTTER—Firm. State dairy, 19 1/2 @ 22c; factory creamery, 20 @ 22 1/2; renovated, 18 1/2 @ 21c; factory, 15 @ 20c; imitation creamery, 12 @ 21c.
EGGS—Steady. State and Pennsylvania, 17c; western, at mark, 16 1/2 @ 17 1/4; southern, at mark, 15c.

Live Stock.

Chicago, May 17.
HOGS—Choice to fancy strong-weight shipping, \$7.30 @ 7.75; common to choice heavy packing, \$6.50 @ 7.25; plain to choice heavy mixed, \$6.00 @ 7.25; selected butcher weights, \$7.15 @ 7.50; assorted light, \$6.50 @ 7.15; common to fancy light mixed, \$6.75 @ 7.00.
CATTLE—Prime beefs, \$7.50 @ 7.75; good to choice beefs, \$6.50 @ 7.25; fair to good export and shipping steers, \$5.70 @ 6.25; common to rough, \$4.50 @ 5.50; good to choice feeders, \$4.50 @ 5.50; poor to good stock steers, \$2.00 @ 4.50; bulls, plain to fancy, \$3.00 @ 5.50; veal calves, fair to fancy, \$3.50 @ 7.00; corn-fed western steers, \$5.20 @ 6.40; Texas cows, bulls and grass steers, \$2.00 @ 4.00.
South Omaha, Neb., May 17.
CATTLE—Market steady. Native steers, \$6.25 @ 7.25; cows and heifers, \$3.50 @ 6.00; western steers, \$4.50 @ 5.50; Texas steers, \$4.25 @ 5.50; carners, \$1.75 @ 3.25; stockers and feeders, \$1.75 @ 3.25; calves, \$1.00 @ 2.00; bulls, stags, etc., \$2.75 @ 6.75.
HOGS—Market 5c higher. Heavy, \$7.20 @ 7.35; mixed, \$7.00 @ 7.20; light, \$6.80 @ 7.10; pigs, \$7.75 @ 8.25; bulk of sales, \$7.00 @ 7.25.
SHEEP—Market steady. Fed muttons, \$4.00 @ 5.50; westerns, \$1.25 @ 5.00; ewes, \$1.25 @ 3.45; common and stockers, \$3.25 @ 4.75; lambs, \$5.00 @ 7.10.